

Foraging Observations



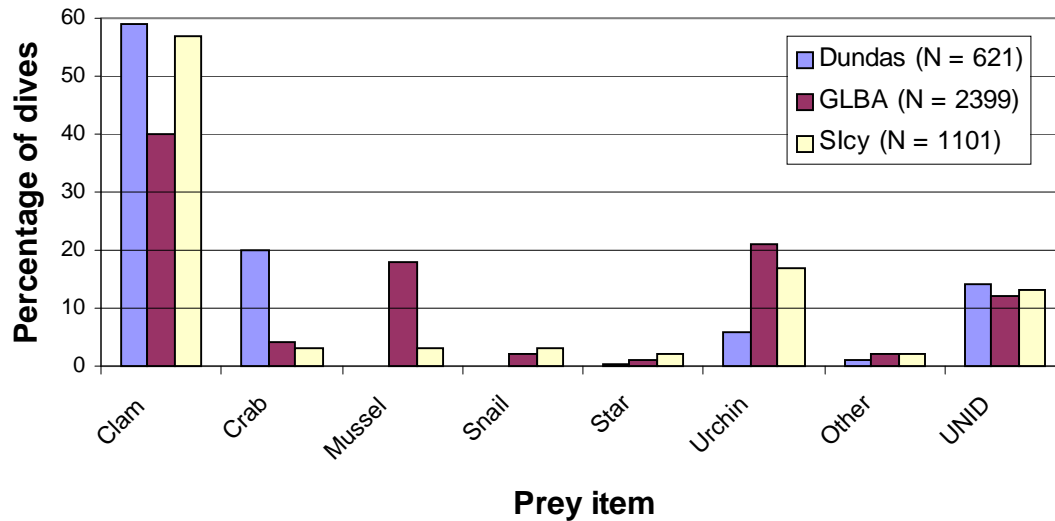


Figure 4. Prey composition of sea otter foraging dives in Dundas Bay, Glacier Bay proper (GLBA), and south Icy Strait (SIcy). This figure shows the percentage of all dives of known outcome that include each prey item. For example, sea otters retrieved at least one clam on 59% of their dives in Dundas Bay. N = number of dives with known outcome. ‘Other’ consists of worms, octopus, fish, sponges, sea cucumbers, shitons, non-clam/mussel bivalves, barnacles, and sea peaches. ‘UNID’ represents prey items not identified due to visual obstruction.

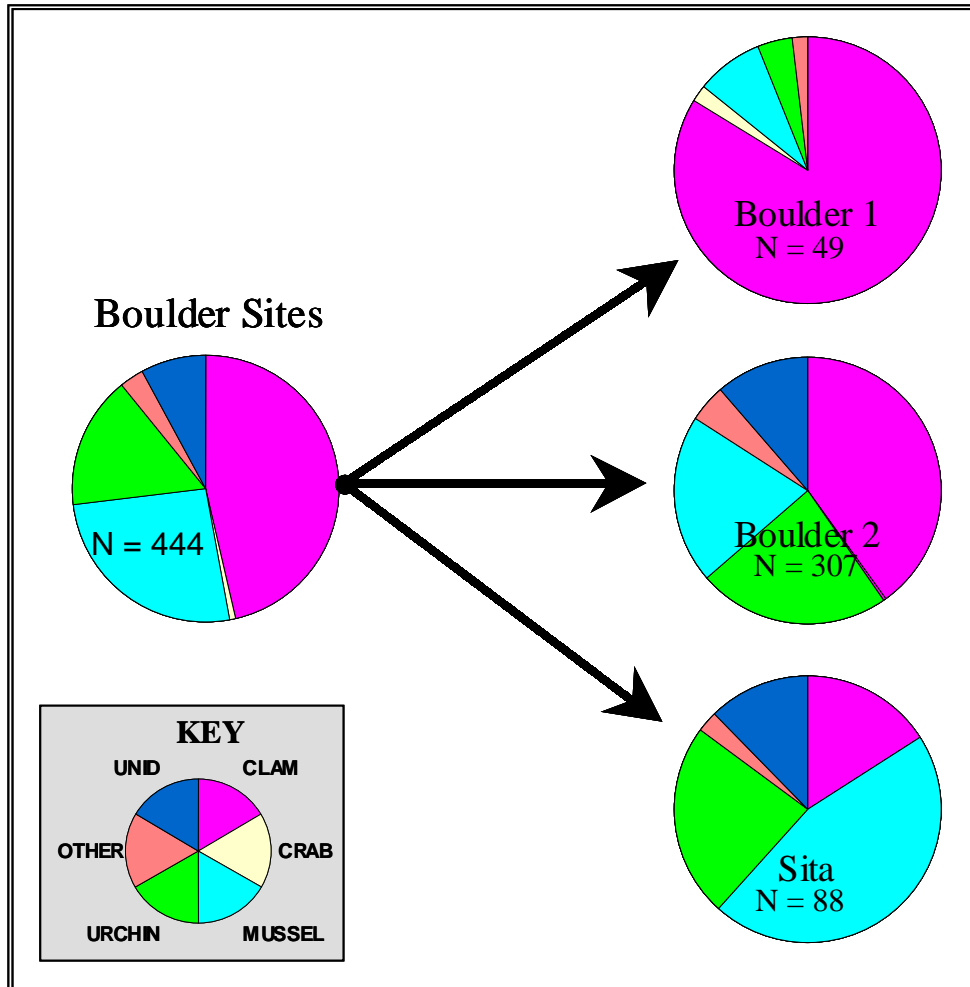
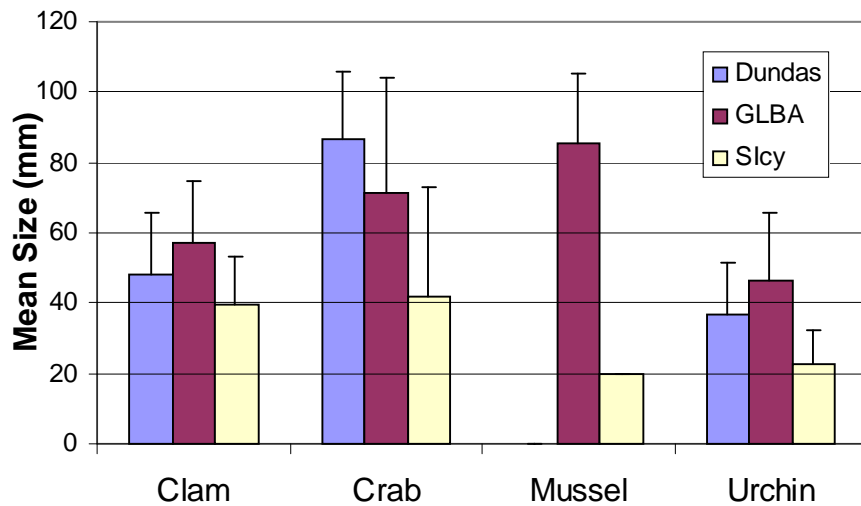
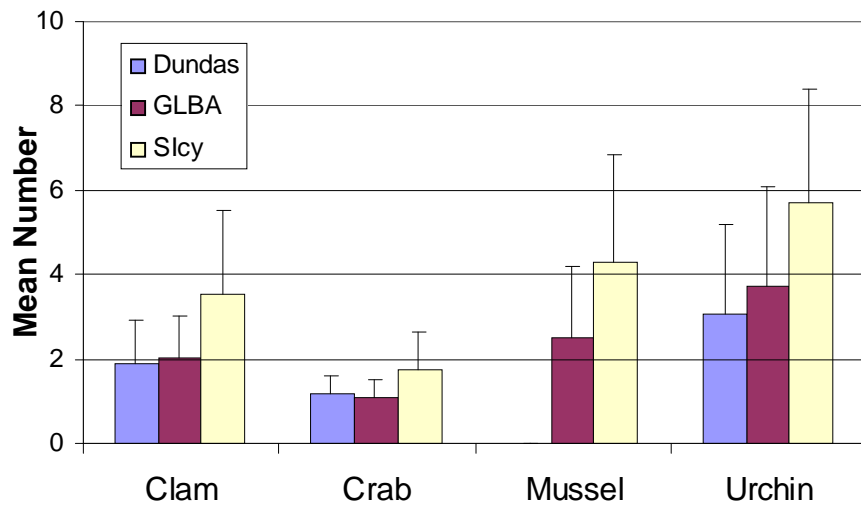


Figure 6. Percentage of each prey type in dives at the Boulder area and then individual sites within the Boulder area showing how variation in prey utilization occurs even on small geographic scales. See Figure 5 for prey composition of foraging dives at other areas within Glacier Bay.



#dives:	Dundas	272	78	.	19
	GLBA	686	31	314	397
	SIcy	471	25	26	145
#bouts:	Dundas	23	19	.	3
	GLBA	88	21	43	60
	SIcy	45	10	5	21

Figure 7. Mean number (top graph) and size (bottom graph) of clams, crabs, mussels, and urchins retrieved by sea otters foraging in Dundas Bay, Glacier Bay proper (GLBA), and south Icy Strait (SIcy). In general, the larger the prey item, the fewer an otter retrieved. For example, mussels retrieved in GLBA are large *Modiolus*, therefore only a few are retrieved per dive, whereas smaller *Mytilus* are retrieved at SIcy sites, thus the number retrieved per dive is higher.